

## **HALL & ASSOCIATES**

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October 15, 2018

### **Via FOIA Online**

National Freedom of Information Officer  
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency  
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW (2822T)  
Washington, DC 20460

**RE: Freedom of Information Act Request for Records Related to the December 9-12, 2013 NPDES Program Improvements for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Strategy and Priority Meeting**

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To Whom This May Concern:

This is a request for public records pursuant to the Freedom of Information Act ("FOIA"), 5 U.S.C. Section 552, as implemented by the Environmental Protection Agency ("EPA") at 40 C.F.R. Part 2. For purposes of this request, the definition of "records" includes, but is not limited to, documents, letters, memoranda, notes, reports, e-mail messages (including e-mails to and from personal e-mail accounts), minutes, handouts, policy statements, data, technical evaluations or analysis, and studies.

### **Background**

On December 9-12, 2013, EPA Region 5 held the NPDES Program Improvements for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century and Priority Meeting in Chicago, IL to discuss the NPDES program and the "near and long-term improvements toward a more efficient and effective NPDES Program." See Attachment. On the last day of that meeting, Thursday December 12<sup>th</sup>, Connie Bosma, the Chief of the HQ Municipal Branch, presented on the *Iowa League of Cities* Decision for attendees. *Id.* at 3.

### **Request**

This request seeks any and all records at EPA HQ concerning:

1. A full list of attendees to the above referenced meeting;

2. Any records that were developed for, used by, or referenced in this discussion by Connie Bosma on the *Iowa League of Cities* decision; and
3. Any notes taken by those in attendance with regard to Ms. Bosma's presentation on the *Iowa League of Cities* decision.

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Please contact the undersigned if the associated search and duplication costs are anticipated to exceed \$100.00. Please duplicate the records that are responsive to this request and send it to the undersigned at the above address. If the requested record is withheld based upon any asserted privilege, please identify the basis for the non-disclosure.

If you have any questions regarding this request, please do not hesitate to contact this office so as to ensure that only the necessary document is duplicated.

Respectfully,

/s/ Erin Thomas

Erin Thomas  
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**NPDES Program Improvements for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century  
Strategy and Priority Meeting  
December 9-12, 2013  
EPA Region 5  
77 W. Jackson Blvd., Chicago, IL**

**AGENDA**

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**Meeting Purpose/Outcomes:**

**Purpose:** The NPDES Program leadership is meeting in Chicago to collectively design an approach to modernize the NPDES program to meet 21<sup>st</sup> century realities. The leadership will also discuss what FY15 strategic priorities will support near and long-term improvements toward a more efficient and effective NPDES Program.

**Outcomes:**

- Appreciation of the key drivers affecting our current realities and our future demands and possibilities
  - Shared 5-10 year vision for the NPDES Program
  - Clear strategic goals to guide program modernization efforts over the next 3-5 years
  - Initial outline of FY15 priorities based on strategic goals for NPDES program
  - Outline of specific next steps to move an NPDES Program strategy and priorities forward
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**Monday, December 9: Program Discussions**

**1:00pm – 5:00pm**

***Regional Round-Robin: Regions Share Issues of Mutual Interest***

*Regional NPDES Branch Chiefs - 15-20 minutes per Region*

***Livestock Water Quality Blueprint***

*Allison Wiedeman, Chief, Rural Branch (HQ)*

**Tuesday, December 10: Full-Day Discussion of NPDES Program Strategy Development**

**8:30am – 5:00pm**

**MORNING**

***Welcome***

*Andrew Sawyers, OWM Office Director*

*Deborah Nagle, WPD Division Director*

**Purpose:** Set context and expectations for the strategic direction.

***Introductions, Expectations, Working Environment***

*Catherine Allen and Philipia Hillman, SRA Facilitators*

**Purpose:** Hear participant expectations/hopes and establish guiding principles for the meeting.

### ***Agenda and Interview Feedback***

Purpose: Facilitators review 2-day agenda and share themes from interviews.

### ***The Case for Modernizing the NPDES Program***

Purpose: Shared understanding of the NPDES Program's Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats driving the strategic direction forward for the way the NPDES Program does business.

#### **AFTERNOON**

### ***Towards a Vision for NPDES***

Purpose: For the leadership team to rally around a 5-10 year vision for modernizing the NPDES Program.

### ***NPDES Strategic Goals***

Purpose: To define 2-3 specific strategic goals that will advance NPDES program modernization and will guide priorities/actions over next 1-3 years covering FY15-16 budgeting cycles.

### ***Defining Partnership for HQ and Regional Leadership***

Purpose: To begin conversation on how HQ and regions will need to work together to modernize the NPDES program and how HQ will align with and support what regions are doing.

### ***Overnight Assignment***

Team may need to reflect and prepare for next day's focus on priorities and action planning.

### ***Adjourn***

## **Wednesday, December 11: Full-Day Discussion of NPDES Strategy Action Planning**

**Wednesday, December 11<sup>th</sup> 8:30am – 5:00pm**

#### **MORNING**

### ***Review/Preview***

Purpose: Facilitators recap Day 1 and preview Day 2 agenda

### ***Share Output of Day 1 with Nancy Stoner***

*Nancy Stoner, AA, Office of Water*

Purpose: For the NPDES leadership team to share their discussions from Day 1 receive feedback from Nancy.

### ***Strategic Priorities and Action Planning***

Purpose: To brainstorm the strategic priorities, actions, metrics, time-frame, potential barriers and leadership requirements necessary to achieve the strategic goals.

#### **AFTERNOON**

### ***Report out on Action Planning***

Purpose: To hear report out on priorities and initial action planning for each strategic goal.

### ***Next Steps and Wrap Up***

### ***Adjourn***

## **Thursday, December 12: Program Discussions**

**8:30am to Noon**

### ***Iowa League of Cities Decision***

*Connie Bosma, Chief, Municipal Branch (HQ)*

### ***Nutrients: Training and Strategy***

*Tom Lavery, Chief, State and Regional Branch (HQ)*

### ***TMDLs: Implications for NPDES***

*Tom Lavery, Chief, State and Regional Branch (HQ)*

### ***Adjourn***